

INSIDE WLJ

WATER TOXICITY AMID DROUGHT — As the West faces severe drought, water-related livestock fatalities are occurring more frequently, and water source testing is critical. **Page 5**

ERP DEADLINE APPROACHING — USDA is reminding producers that the deadline to complete applications for the Emergency Relief Program is July 22. **Page 6**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

As lawsuits rage over concentration issues in the packing industry, a *WLJ* article from July 1998 titled "Big business or big government... take your pick" reports on a familiar quandary: "Antitrust situations have been in the news a lot lately and the current presidential administration and Congress seem to be relatively sensitive to the issue. Restoring the competition in the fed cattle and beef markets should concern every cattleman. Cattle marketing has been frustrating to say the least. The market for fed cattle is down to roughly four players. The group of cattlemen that have filed suit against the world's largest beef and pork processor, IBP, have taken on a noble cause. You have to give these folks credit for taking on Goliath."

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Government moves for dismissal of lawsuit over Hammond allotments

— EIS is in process

The federal government is asking the court to dismiss a lawsuit by environmental groups regarding grazing allotments once used by Hammond Ranches Inc. (HRI) because the government has rescinded the decision to allow grazing until it completes an environmental review.

Lawyers for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) presented oral arguments on June 29 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon. "The case is moot because there is no live controversy between the parties," said Shannon Boylan, the government's attorney.

Western Watersheds Project (WWP) and three other environmental organizations urged Judge Andrew Hallman not to dismiss the suit over concerns the BLM will not complete the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the allotments.

"Right now there is no EIS, so it's premature to declare the case moot," said Talasi Brooks, attorney for WWP. "We don't know what the agency will do this time,

and we won't know until they do it."

In December 2021, the BLM announced it was conducting a scoping period for public comments on a proposed EIS for the

26,378-acre Bridge Creek project area in southeastern Oregon near the town of Frenchglen. The project covers the Hammond Fenced Federal Range, Hammond, Mud Creek and Hardie Summer allot-

ments. The EIS will consider options from issuance of grazing for a 10-year period for up to three applicants to no grazing.

See DISMISSAL on page 6



Lawyers for the Bureau of Land Management are asking the court to withdraw a lawsuit by environmental groups on the Bridge Creek allotments because they say the case is moot. Pictured here, an early springtime view of the Stonehouse Wilderness Study Area.

Bureau of Land Management

Caucus requests hearing on wild horse program

— Gelding may be a solution

Members of the Congressional Animal Protection Caucus sent a letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources requesting an oversight hearing of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wild Horse and Burro Program.

The letter comes in response to the recent disease outbreaks at two off-range facilities in Cañon City, CO, and Wheatland, WY, resulting in the deaths of over 150 horses due to equine flu and strangles.

"After reviewing assessments of the off-range facilities evaluated this year, we are concerned about documented trends of inadequate biosecurity controls, understaffing, lack of record-keeping, limited access to hay and water, and issues related to pen maintenance," the letter said.

The letter questioned BLM's

plans to round up 22,000 wild horses and burros "under the guise of" reaching appropriate management levels "that are determined through unclear means" and add to the already estimated 60,000 horses currently being held at off-range facilities.

"We believe an oversight hearing of the Wild Horse and Burro Program is merited to protect the well-being of captured horses and to ensure that the BLM is focusing its efforts on humane on-range management," the letter concludes.

The letter was signed by Reps. Dina Titus (D-NV-01), Steve Cohen (D-TN-9), Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), Ted Lieu (D-CA-33), Albio Sires (D-NJ-8), Peter DeFazio (D-OR-4) and Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24).

The letter comes amid a study released in the journal *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* on the

See HORSE on page 7

Sysco accuses meatpackers of price fixing, limiting supply

— Cites previous investigation

Sysco Corporation has filed suit against the four largest meatpackers, accusing them of conspiring to limit the supply and fix wholesale beef prices since 2015.

Houston-based Sysco Corporation, a wholesale food service company for restaurants, hotels and other businesses, filed a jury trial demand in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas against Cargill Inc., JBS S.A., National Beef Packing Co. and Tyson Foods Inc.

The complaint states that since 2015, the meatpackers have conspired to artificially constrain the supply of beef entering the domes-

tic supply chain, artificially inflating beef prices Sysco paid.

The suit states the four meatpackers sold 80 percent of the more than 25 billion pounds of fresh and frozen beef in the U.S., and their "gatekeeping role" has enabled them to control upstream and downstream beef pricing collusively. Sysco further asserts characteristics such as packer concentration, inelastic demand, the commodity nature of beef and market share stability enabled the packers to capitalize "on the fundamental mechanism of supply and demand operating in a beef market vulnerable to successful cartel formation and operation."

Sysco contends industry data shows the packers colluded in

2015, as their slaughter numbers moved in tandem both quarterly and annually through 2019. Sysco also states the four packers slaughtered fewer cattle during that period compared to 2007-2014. Also, in 2015, the wholesale price spread with the per-pound price of cattle began to show unusual trends.

"According to USDA Economic Research Service data, the average spread between the average farm value of cattle and wholesale value of beef was substantially higher from January 2015 to present than during the preceding five years. From 2010 to 2014, the average farm to wholesale spread was about \$34. But from 2015 to

See SYSCO on page 5

Cash trade slow to develop; mostly steady

Cash trade was slow to develop this holiday-shortened week, as packers have cattle committed for this and next week. Live cattle closed higher, but feeder cattle could not muster any support.

Live cattle closed higher, with the August contract up \$1.98 to \$134.55 and the October contract up \$1.08 to \$139.85.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled 45,000 head. Live cattle traded between \$137-151, averaging \$149.87, and dressed steers averaged \$235.81.

Cash trade through last week totaled 73,137 head. Of that, 63 percent (46,299 head) were committed to nearby delivery, while the remaining 37 percent (24,838 head) were committed to deferred delivery. Live steers averaged \$146.43, and dressed steers averaged \$234.06.

"The cash cattle market is finally starting to see some interest after feedlots put up a good fight in deferring the week's business in hopes of driving prices higher," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in Thursday's midday comments. "The Southern Plains is seeing cattle sell for mostly \$137 (which is steady to \$1.00 lower than last week), and in the North, cattle are selling anywhere from \$147-151 (which is steady to \$1.00 higher than last week). Given that packers have cattle committed for this week

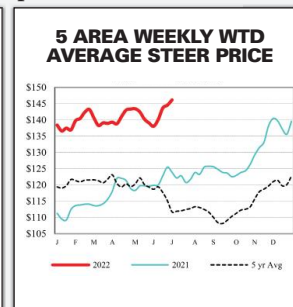
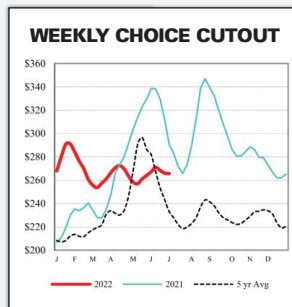
and next, it's unlikely that this week's volume is very big."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of June 27 to July 4 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$145.80.
 - Formula net purchases: \$145.10.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$144.13.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$142.92.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$234.10.
 - Formula net purchases: \$229.60.

- Forward contract net purchases: \$220.64.
- Negotiated grid net

See MARKETS on page 9



LIVE STEERS \$149.87	DRESSED STEERS \$235.73	CME FEEDER \$162.90
WEEK ENDING: 7-7-22		

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Between the ditches

The Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS) has been busy this last session and has ruined the White House's green agenda. This was a controversial SCOTUS session that supported the more conservative values held by most in agriculture.



CROW

I would say that the Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act are going to be scrutinized very closely going forward. The definition of waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) could be threatened. If SCOTUS is game to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, I don't think they will have a problem looking at a bad environmental law that morphed into something it was never intended to be.

On the front page of the Wall Street Journal last week, there was a headline that said "Biden affirms his green agenda." Since then, the Biden administration has been hellbent on picking on drillers in the Permian Basin about ozone levels. They have announced they want to cut back drilling leases in the Gulf of Mexico, and they stopped a ship carrying Russian oil products destined for New Orleans. It's almost like they are declaring war on the hydrocarbon business again while they ask other countries to produce more oil to solve our energy crisis.

The public is struggling with \$5 gasoline, and truckers are paying \$6 for diesel fuel. Inflation is high, supply chains are slow and folks are clearly not happy with the direction this administration is taking the economy. The Biden battle cry is "go green or go home." This administration is senseless about what their citizens want. Polls show that 66 percent of respondents say the country is going in the wrong direction.

One thing about Donald Trump, whether you love him or hate him, is that he showed us what a wide-open economy looks like. He reduced more regulations than any other administration, but the Biden administration has shown us the opposite. Climate change is the only thing they can think about. Heck with the border situation and the fentanyl overdoses from bootleg painkillers. Right now, you need to rely on your family and friends; you can't rely on the government.

SCOTUS ruled in the *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* appeal that EPA does not have the authority to regulate carbon emissions. The court ruled 6 to 3 that the Clean Air Act doesn't give the agency broad authority to set industrywide standards for carbon emissions from power plants, stating that only Congress could authorize such rules.

The EPA was exceeding its authority by regulating power plants' carbon emissions, which Congress never gave them explicit authority to do. I would imagine they could rule the same way for the WOTUS definition, which I'm sure will find its way to the SCOTUS again once the new rule is produced. WOTUS must feel like a bad dream for the court.

The justices referred to the "major questions doctrine," which has been seldom used and is regarded as a living, breathing principle like the *Chevron* doctrine. It essentially says the federal bureaucracy is no longer allowed to impose programs of major "economic or political significance" on the country without "clear congressional authorization." In other words, Congress needs to give agencies better direction when they make laws.

"The subject matter of the regulation here makes the Court's intervention more troubling," Associate Justice Elena Kagan wrote. "Whatever else this Court may know about; it does not have a clue about how to address climate change. And let's say the obvious: The stakes here are high. Yet the Court today prevents congressionally authorized agency action to curb power plants' carbon dioxide emissions. The Court appoints itself—instead of Congress or the expert agency—the decision-maker on climate policy. I cannot think of many things more frightening."

SCOTUS is now placing guardrails on *Chevron* to prevent lower courts from going off the constitutional road. Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch's concurrence, joined by Samuel Alito, is especially helpful in lighting the way for lower courts grappling with when and how to apply the major questions doctrine.

First, he writes, the doctrine applies when "an agency claims the power to resolve a matter of great 'political significance.'" Second, an agency "must point to clear congressional authorization when it seeks to regulate 'a significant portion of the American economy.'" Third, it may apply when an agency seeks to intrude "into an area that is the particular domain of state law."

Hopefully these rulings will get legislators back on the job of doing something instead of bickering about the politics. Say what you mean, and mean what you say. Now pray for more rain. — **PETE CROW**



DITTMER'S TAKE

Out of several important recent Supreme Court of the U.S. (SCOTUS) decisions, the generation of electric power; the regulation of mining and drilling in the West; and the subsequent cost of electricity, gasoline and diesel fuel are critical issues to agriculture.

The case of *West Virginia v. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)* was of interest even before it became more fundamental and far-reaching regarding all federal agencies.

The case in question contested whether EPA had the authority to force a generation shift in the power industry from an electricity grid that relies on coal power plants for 22 percent of its electricity to a grid that uses wind and solar instead. Seventeen states joined in the suit.

A post from the law firm Phelps Dunbar LLP summarized the case: The ruling held the federal Clean Air Act does not grant EPA the authority to limit greenhouse gas emissions from existing power plants. A 6-3 majority held that the "generation shifting" scheme was an impermissible expansion of EPA's regulatory authority.

EPA regulations had already forced the closure of many coal plants, which once made up nearly half of our electricity sources. Natural gas is the next target (38 percent) as the Biden administration attempts to kill off all fossil fuel energy sources.

An opinion footnote said the agency was overstepping its authority by indirectly decreeing what the "market share of coal, natural gas, wind and solar must be, and then requiring plants to reduce operations or subsidize their competitors to get there."

Of course, taxpayers' subsidies have already poured into renewables, and such EPA regulations also put ratepayers on the hook—more cost shifting.

"A decision of such magnitude and consequence rests with Congress itself, or an agency acting pursuant to a clear delegation from that representative body," the majority opinion said.

The bottom line: There must be "clear congressional authorization" for such a major question.

The political left was horrified by the SCOTUS ruling on the EPA case. For them, it meant more pressure to pass another Senate simple majority reconciliation bill with loads of climate change measures. But Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) told the Democrats there would be no bipartisan China competitiveness, national security investment and federal semiconductor bill if the Democrats pursue a very partisan reconciliation bill. President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) have been discussing a reconciliation bill with Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV) to raise

SCOTUS REINS IN FEDERAL AGENCIES

over \$1.5 trillion in new taxes and pass more climate change regulations, social programs and drug price rules. It's a partial resurrection of Biden's Build Back Better Act, proposing to pump \$52 billion into the semiconductor industry.

SCOTUS refusal to hear the appeal from Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) of a long-running case against the checkoff ends another destructive effort by R-CALF USA. R-CALF has used the legal arms of meat industry enemies to attack the national Beef Checkoff and, by extension, the beef promotion and research division at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. The case was filed against the Montana Beef Council in 2016 and was later expanded to 13 other state beef councils. R-CALF lost the case in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals but petitioned SCOTUS to hear it.

The Cattlemen's Beef Board entered into memorandums of understanding with 20 state beef councils after the initial lawsuit. It put what it had already been doing into formal rules to ensure state beef council compliance with the Beef Act and Order in ads or information.

R-CALF protested those memorandums in the courts, while at the same time claiming credit for forcing "reforms." R-CALF opposes the only self-help, self-funded program the industry has, despite the program being voted in by cattle producers themselves and consistently polling quite favorably.

Besides the steady upward trend of domestic beef demand, the tremendous boost for the beef industry from exports totaling over \$10.5 billion in 2021 has come from the checkoff's major contributions to the U.S. Meat Export Federation. However, R-CALF continues their destructive efforts and accuses the cattlemen and cattlemen running it of nefarious deeds.

Some news isn't so good. A district court for northern California reinstated stricter rules for threatened species under the Endangered Species Act that had been eased by the Trump administration. Those rules had not applied the same protections to "threatened" species as they did to "endangered" species. Now, the agency will be required to provide both the same protections.

The Trump rules allowed consideration of economic impacts for protecting a species. Activists and courts do not want a federal agency taking human impacts into consideration. Some complained the Trump rules didn't allow enough leeway for climate considerations, a Biden administration priority.

— **Steve Dittmer, WLJ columnist**
(Steve Dittmer is the author of the *Agribusiness Freedom Foundation* newsletter. Views in the column do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of WLJ or its editorial staff.)

GUEST OPINION

The U.S. Supreme Court is tasked with—among other things—reviewing federal regulations and determining whether they comply with the statutes passed by Congress. In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court did just that with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by stating that before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can designate an area as "critical habitat," first the area "must be" habitat. The Supreme Court did not say that the area could become habitat at some time in the future or that the federal government could blackmail you into restoring an area into habitat in the future. The court said ESA critical habitat must first be habitat.

Despite this plain language and knowing that every student learned the difference between present, past and future verb tenses, the Biden administration has repealed the Trump regulations implementing the Supreme Court's habitat definition. According to Biden, it was necessary to rescind the Trump definition because the government wants to designate (and regulate) areas that do not meet a listed species' needs now but may be able to "in the future" due to "natural processes or restoration."

Take a practical example. My husband and I have a ranch north of Cheyenne, WY. Our property supports a cow-calf operation, several horses, a decent cow dog, two worthless but loveable mutts, several barn cats and our daughter's homely potbellied pig. Lodgepole Creek runs through our property, although the creek dries up in the late summer and fall if we don't get any rain. Two hundred and seventy-eight miles past our house, Lodgepole Creek drains into the South Platte River (a navigable water).

Currently, our private property is not designated as habitat for any ESA species. We use our property to raise beef to feed our family, this nation and the world. Under the Trump definition of habitat, the federal government would have to scientifically show that our land currently contains (present verb tense) at least one of the physical or biological features necessary to support a threatened or endangered species to define

POLAR BEAR HABITAT: NOW COMING TO A BACKYARD NEAR YOU

our property as "habitat." However, under Biden's pronouncement, our private land could be designated as habitat today—for a species that cannot live there today—because the species might live there "someday" based on natural processes (i.e., climate change) or by blackmail.

Ah, but the government says, "Oh no, your land is not affected because the designation of critical habitat does not impact private property use." What the government doesn't mention is that if you need a permit from any federal agency to put in a water tank, for example—which we would if we wanted one near Lodgepole Creek, as it falls under the Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction—the government could condition the granting of our permit on us "restoring" our property as habitat for a species that doesn't live there.

In one interview, a Biden official was asked whether the new rule means the federal government could force someone to tear up a paved parking lot and plant trees as habitat, and she admitted that could happen. Never mind that a parking lot may be necessary for the survival of a small business, the economic cost of doing the "restoration" to the property owner or the amount of time that the parking lot had been in place. Also never mind that this will add to skyrocketing inflation, more food insecurity, fewer jobs and greater burdens on small businesses.

And don't get me started on whether our ranch could support polar bears based on climate change. The Biden decision doesn't give a time frame on when the "natural processes" need to happen. In 10 years or 10,000 years, climate change could make our backyard polar bear habitat, so it could be designated as habitat now. So, watch your backyards, farms, ranches and homes. Based on "natural processes" or "restoration," you could be living in polar bear habitat too. — **Karen Budd-Falen**

(Karen Budd-Falen is an attorney with Budd-Falen Law Offices LLC, with a primary focus on property rights, environmental and natural resources law.)

Letters to the Editor: Letters for publication should be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal Editorial, 7355 E. Orchard Road #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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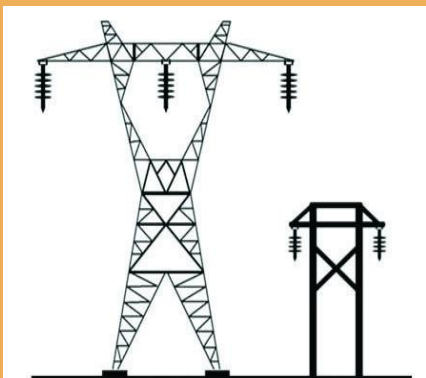
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Grazing with the weather

Precipitation and temperature play major roles in pasture productivity, and knowing how to adjust grazing to match current conditions is key. Are you shifting your management to meet recent weather?

Stocking and grazing management are not static things. When production is limited, especially during a drought period, stretching forage resources is a high priority. By this point in the year, our pastures have produced the vast majority of forage we will get. Using a temporary electric fence to cross fence can increase utilization, slowing

down a grazing rotation and stretching forage considerably.

This is especially true when plants become dormant due to a lack of precipitation or heat. Typically, utilization seeks to balance animal demand and plant health, but taking more of a dormant plant without damaging the crown has little impact on overall plant health.

On the flip side, grass that is getting tall and lanky ahead of a grazing rotation could benefit from flash grazing. Moving animals on and off quickly can help keep plants from getting too mature. Keep up this fast pace while growth is rapid. Once growth slows, then the rotation can slow down as well.

Speeding up grazing when things are wet and slowing

down during dry times is a great strategy to use as we adjust to the weather Mother Nature throws our way. Doing so can help you find the perfect balance for your pasture and your animals' health. — **Ben Beckman, University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

(In an effort to serve the next generation of livestock producers, WLJ's Youth Opportunities calendar lists internship and scholarship information for agricultural- and livestock-focused students, listed by application deadline. If you have an internship or scholarship to announce, please email it to editorial@wlj.net.)

Aug. 1 — The Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) is searching for college students that can keep up with the fast-paced environment of the NILE Stock Show and Rodeo. For more information, visit www.thenile.org/p/events/youth-events/internships, call 406-256-2495 or email shelby@thenile.org.

Western Livestock Journal

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FALL 2022

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LEGAL LEDGER

Settlement to protect ID wolves

A settlement agreement between environmental groups, USDA's Wildlife Services (WS), the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management requires WS to complete an environmental review of the agency's wolf management actions in Idaho by 2024. The settlement stipulates that in its final environmental impact statement, WS will consider implementing alternatives to lethal removal in wilderness areas and public lands, restricting wolf damage management in areas of environmental concern, blocking the use of sodium cyanide (M-44s) and snare traps to target gray wolves, and establishing a 72-hour trap check requirement. The settlement allows predator control "in response to a witnessed or documented, confirmed livestock depredation or attack." According to WildEarth Guardians—one of the groups in the suit—the settlement follows a separate March 2020 settlement that restricted the places where WS could kill wolves in Idaho. Predator protections under both agreements will be in place until WS completes the new environmental impact statement in 2024. "I think this settlement layers on some additional protections for wolves," Erik Molvar, Western Watersheds Project's executive director, told the Associated Press. "We got some of what we wanted (in the agreement). But, quite frankly, we'd like Wildlife Services to get out of the business of killing native wildlife entirely."

ODA grants \$2M to local processors

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) chose six Oregon meat processing businesses to receive a portion of the \$2 million allocated by the Oregon Legislature to expand the processing capacity statewide for Oregon-raised livestock. ODA received 44 applications for grants of up to \$500,000 that were available to processors through the Oregon Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant Program. "The small number of existing meat processors in the state have long waitlists, making it difficult for Oregon's producers to get their product to market," said Alexis Taylor, ODA director. "With the support of the Oregon Legislature, ODA is actively working to create more resilience in the supply chain for Oregon consumers and, in turn, Oregon meat producers and processors so they can grow and meet local demand." Through the grants, ODA estimates the six chosen meat processors will annually contribute an additional 3 million pounds of local meat to the state of Oregon.

BLM seeks comments on sage grouse

The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Colorado office is seeking public comments on a management plan amendment and associated environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Gunnison sage-grouse and its habitat. The land use planning amendment and EIS will evaluate existing BLM resource management plans that intersect with Gunnison sage-grouse habitat in southern Colorado and Utah. The BLM will carefully consider how the habitat needs for the Gunnison sage-grouse are met in balance with other multiple-use activities, such as mineral leasing and development, recreation, livestock grazing management, real estate actions, fire management and restoration actions. "The BLM is committed to working with our partners to best preserve the health and welfare of Gunnison sage-grouse populations and their habitat throughout the Southwest," stated Deputy State Director for Resources Alan Bittner. "We welcome and encourage robust public participation in this process as we consider potential management actions impacting our public lands." A 45-day public scoping period began July 6 to gather comments. The public may submit comments regarding alternatives, scope, issues or new information via the BLM's e-planning website, <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019031/510>.

PETA objects to 'humanely raised' label

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) filed a petition with USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) on June 27, arguing the agency cannot regulate "humanely raised" meat labels seen on specific packaging. According to the letter submitted by PETA, "FSIS has no way to inspect and verify the claims companies make concerning the conditions in which the animals were raised, such as 'humanely raised,' 'raised in a stress-free environment,' or 'free to roam.' As a result, companies may submit claims that are completely false or grossly misleading and still garner approval from the agency." PETA asserts FSIS is allowing companies to make false claims, violating its responsibility to ensure labels on meat products are not false or misleading. The petition points to on-farm investigations at four companies that expose FSIS' approval of the humane claims on the label and what the public perceives as humane treatment. "In light of this disparity and the agency's lack of jurisdiction, and thus the agency's inability to remedy this problem through improved regulation, PETA urges FSIS to amend its regulations to no longer allow for the approval of animal raising claims on product labels and to rescind the guidelines for the approval of such labels," the petition states.

Is your water good enough for cattle to drink?

Providing access to water can be challenging, especially for operations enduring drought conditions. Water-related toxicities and fatalities may be seen with greater frequency under hot and dry time periods. Warning signs of toxicity often develop rapidly, and animal death may be the first clinical sign. Common water-related toxicities include water deprivation, sulfates, blue-green algae (BGA) and nitrates.

Water deprivation

The common cause of water deprivation is an automatic waterer that stops functioning or a pump at the well that quits working, unbeknownst to the rancher. With good

intentions, the cattle are given immediate and full access to water. Unfortunately, this approach often leads to rapid imbalances in electrolytes and salt toxicosis. It is important to note that salt toxicosis in this instance is not the overconsumption of salt.

Animals that have been without water have elevated sodium levels in their tissues, including the brain. When animals are given free or rapid access to water, the fluid rushes to the high levels of sodium and essentially floods the brain. Cattle rapidly show neurological signs, including incoordination, weakness, seizures and death.

If animals have been deprived, rewatering should be

done gradually. Just a few inches of water should be placed in a tank or trough. Depending on the conditions, rewatering may need to be done over a period of several hours. Consultation with a veterinarian is the best approach.

Sulfates

Cattle experiencing sulfur toxicity also show neurological signs. Commonly, we would call this condition polioencephalomalacia, or polio. Cattle initially become depressed, decrease feed intake and exhibit lethargy. As the condition progresses, they become ataxic, stagger and may die.

It is advisable to test wa-

ter sources for sulfate levels, and retesting may need to be done over time, as levels can change. Additionally, sulfate levels are additive, so both feed and water should be assessed to determine acceptable levels.

Blue-green algae

The classic sign of BGA, also known as cyanobacteria, is several dead animals surrounding a pond. Not all species of cyanobacteria are toxic. There are three main types seen in Oklahoma, and they produce a toxin that leads to neurological signs and rapid death usually within a few hours. Liver damage, which may be noticed

though photosensitivity or bloody diarrhea, can also be seen.

In these cases, water should always be tested for BGA bloom. Fertilizer and manure runoff can increase chances of BGA. Ponds should be monitored closely for signs of bloom and dead wildlife. If BGA is suspected, all remaining animals in that pasture should be moved to a location with a different water source.

Nitrates

Nitrate toxicity is often part of the discussion when evaluating forages, especially Johnson grass. However, a common cause of nitrate tox-

icity is hauling water in containers previously used for fertilizer. Due to the concentration of fertilizers or other chemicals, it is nearly impossible to remove residue to a safe level. Nitrates may also reach dangerous levels in ponds or other water sources that collect drainage from manure, highly fertilized fields or industrial waste.

Neurological signs and death are also seen with nitrates, as has been previously described with other toxicities. A key sign of nitrate toxicity is chocolate brown blood. Just as with sulfates, the effects of nitrate levels in forage, feed and water are additive. So, both feed and water must be considered when evaluating a nitrate problem.

Deep wells are usually safe sources of water. No safety standards have been set for livestock water, but it has been suggested that up to 100 parts per million of nitrate nitrogen in water should be safe if cattle are consuming an adequate ration that is free of nitrates. This is 10 times the safe level set for humans.

Oklahoma State University (OSU) has laboratories that can assist producers in testing. Information on the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory can be found at vetmed.okstate.edu/oaddl. — **Roslyn Biggs, DVM, OSU beef Extension veterinarian; and Brianne Taylor, DVM, OSU assistant professor of veterinary pathobiology**

Packers' slaughter numbers moved in tandem

SYSCO (from page 1)

2018, the average spread was about \$54—a 59 percent increase. The spread continued to balloon, by 2020 reaching about \$71, a 109 percent increase from the pre-conspiracy period average,” Sysco states in court documents.

The suit states the collective power of the four meatpackers allowed them to grow their operating margins to the point that JBS and Tyson had a 10.7 percent margin in 2020 versus 2.1 percent in 2014.

By reducing supplies in tandem and price fixing at

levels higher than would have prevailed, Sysco states it “suffered antitrust injury by paying illegally inflated prices for beef it purchased from defendants.”

As with a previous case filed against the four meatpackers, Sysco cites a former Swift Beef Co. employee at a Texas plant who confirmed the existence of a conspiracy among the four meatpackers. The witness confirmed that all of the packers agreed to reduce their cattle purchases and slaughter volumes for the purpose of increasing their margins. The Sysco suit also cites the investiga-

tion launched by the Department of Justice and USDA into whether the four meatpackers fixed beef prices as far back as 2015.

Last year, District Judge John R. Tunheim of the U.S. District Court of Minnesota denied the four meatpackers' motion to dismiss a similar price fixing lawsuit based, at least in part, on similar allegations relating to testimony from two confidential witnesses who claimed the packers purposely reduced slaughter to depress cattle prices.

Tunheim previously dismissed the case without prejudice in 2020, alleging

the four packers violated the Sherman Antitrust Act of 1890 by engaging in a price fixing conspiracy and alleging the packers violated the Packers and Stockyards Act and the Commodity Exchange Act.

JBS agreed to settle for \$52.5 million in February 2022 regarding the case. In a statement, JBS stated it did not admit liability, but settling was in its best interest, according to a Reuters report. The company also said it would defend beef price fixing claims by other plaintiffs. The settlement also contained information given to the Department of Justice,

depositions of JBS employees and an opt-out provision that permits JBS to withdraw from the settlement if other packers elect to opt out of the settlement.

At a U.S. House Agriculture Committee hearing on concentration in the meatpacking sector in April, Rep. David Scott (D-GA-13), chair of the committee, explicitly asked the packers whether there was an agreement to corroborate on pricing and supply, to which the packers said no.

An initial conference in the Sysco suit is set for Sept. 19. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

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USDA reminds producers deadline for ERP is July 22

The deadline for commodity and specialty crop producers to complete applications for the Emergency Relief Program (ERP) is July 22, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said in a reminder this week.

USDA mailed out pre-filled applications in late May to producers with crop insurance who suffered losses due to natural disasters in 2020 and 2021.

So far, USDA has issued \$4 billion in payments to producers under the ERP.

USDA is implementing ERP and the previously announced Emergency Live-

stock Relief Program (ELRP) in two phases. The first phase utilizes existing claim data to provide relief expeditiously, and the second phase focuses on ensuring that producers who are not covered by other programs receive assistance. For phase one, USDA used crop insurance and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) claim data.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will be sending pre-filled applications to about 9,000 eligible producers with NAP coverage in mid-July.

Both ERP and ELRP are funded by the Extending

Government Funding and Delivering Emergency Assistance Act, which President Joe Biden signed into law in 2021. The law provided \$10 billion to help agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters that occurred during the calendar years 2020 and 2021. Of those funds, \$750 million is committed to livestock producers who experienced losses due to drought or wildfire in the calendar year 2021.

Eligible livestock producers have received ELRP

payments totaling more than \$590 million since the program was rolled out in late March.

Producers should check with the FSA at their local USDA Service Center to confirm eligibility and to ensure that all required farm program participation, adjusted gross income and conservation compliance forms are on file, USDA said. Producers who have previously participated in FSA programs likely have

these required forms already on file.

Vilsack announced that to date, agricultural producers have already received more than \$4 billion through the ERP, representing approximately 67 percent of the more than \$6 billion projected to be paid through this first phase of the program.

"We recognize the financial recovery need is great and worked deliberately to create a program delivery

process that would ensure quick payments to producers," Vilsack said.

"I am extremely proud to share that the strategically streamlined ERP application and program implementation process have yielded the desired results—reduced burdens on and expedited payments to approximately 120,000 disaster-impacted agricultural producers to date." —**Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent**

Hammond sent a letter to BLM regarding EIS

DISMISSAL (from page 1)

BLM also filed a motion to dismiss the complaint in December 2021, stating that because it rescinded the decision to issue the grazing permit to HRI, made by then-Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt in January 2021, the environmental groups' case is moot. Court documents state the decision was rescinded "nearly a year ago," and the plaintiffs can no longer "assert actual injury to any concrete interest they may have in the Bridge Creek allotments. Accordingly, the court lacks subject-matter jurisdiction over plaintiffs' claims and they should be dismissed."

BLM stated in the motion it will conduct a new National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and provide further opportunities for the public—including the plaintiffs—to participate before BLM renders a new final decision.

As a result of issuing the notice to prepare a new EIS, BLM announced it withdrew the findings of no significant impact (FONSI).

WWP and the environmental organizations filed court documents on March 2 in reply to the motion to dismiss, stating BLM's decision to withdraw actions and decisions in the lawsuit "confirms that this case is reviewable under well-established exceptions to the mootness doctrine."

The groups assert the withdrawal of the FONSI did not include the environmental assessment (EA)

and did not remove all doubt about the mootness of the case. The removal of the FONSI and the grazing authorization is an action by the BLM to avoid review by the court, the groups claim. "It is well-established that an agency cannot moot a plaintiff's case by stopping its offending conduct in this way." Citing a previous lawsuit in the 9th Circuit Court, they state, "Voluntary cessation saves an issue from becoming moot if the defendant voluntarily stops the allegedly illegal conduct to avoid a judgment against him unless it is absolutely clear that the allegedly wrongful behavior could not reasonably be expected to recur."

WWP and the groups continue to challenge the EA without the grazing decision.

"The agency can issue a new decision based on that EA at any time," Brooks said at the June hearing. "The fact the EA is still in effect means the agency can do the same thing again. BLM can authorize grazing based on the EA at any time." The government replied the plaintiffs "have not demonstrated a concrete injury to their interests and therefore have failed to show that they have standing to pursue a claim solely against the EA."

BLM countered in a response that the case is mootness, not finality.

"Even if finality were at issue here, moreover, BLM withdrew the challenged decision and the challenged FONSI, committed to developing an EIS, and clarified that no further grazing will be authorized before the agency completes that new NEPA process," court documents stated.

According to W. Alan Schroeder, the lawyer for HRI, the company submitted comments during the scoping period on the EIS.

Schroeder told *WLJ* in an email the revocation by the Biden administration of the grazing permit issued by Bernhardt is starting the process all over again.

In a letter to BLM, HRI and Schroeder questioned why the agency is requesting comments on the same objectives BLM previously considered, assessed and decided on in its previous NEPA and decision-making processes completed on Jan. 19, 2021. The letter asks BLM to also consider that the lands within the allotments are within a grazing district duly established by the secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Taylor Grazing Act. It also asks BLM to consider the amount of private land, water rights and related private infrastructure within the Bridge Creek area owned or controlled by HRI.

In response to the letter from Schroeder, Don Rotell, Andrews/Steens field manager for BLM, responded he expects to have a record of decision signed for the allotment management plan sometime in the "spring of 2023, and grazing decisions regarding allocation of available forage and grazing preference would be made shortly afterward." Rotell also stated the agency could not issue a nonrenewable permit to HRI because they are not currently under NEPA analysis.

Schroeder stated he is surprised the lawsuit is still pending and not final.

Hallman said a decision would be issued within 60 days but urged the parties to find an interim solution. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

Western Livestock Journal

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COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wlj.net.)

Aug. 1 – The American Sheep Industry Association is kicking off its annual Photo Contest. More than \$1,000 will be awarded, and winning entries will be showcased in the October issue of the Sheep Industry News. Entry details: www.sheepusa.org/asi-annual-photo-contest.

Aug. 8-9 – The second American Lamb Summit is set for Aug. 8-9 in East Lansing, MI. The registration fee is \$200, with an optional tour organized by the Michigan Sheep Producers Association on August 10 for an additional fee of \$125, which is limited to 36 participants. To learn more and register, go to LambSummit.com.

Aug. 12-13 – Registration is now open for three National Cattlemen's Beef Association Stockmanship and Stewardship regional events, with the third stop at Auburn University in Auburn, AL, Aug. 12-13. Details: www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org. Cattle producers attending a Stockmanship and Stewardship event are eligible for reimbursement through the Rancher Resilience Grant.

Aug. 18-19 – R-CALF USA is hosting its 2022 Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Lodge at Deadwood in Deadwood, SD. Sponsor and attendee registration is available now at www.rcalfconvention.com.

Aug. 24-26 – Registration is now open for the Public Land Council's 2022 Annual Meeting in Cody, WY. Registration and hotel details can be found at publiclandscouncil.org under the "events" tab. Early bird registration ends June 15.

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90 percent of horses would need to be gelded

HORSE (from page 1)

effects of gelding wild horses on behavior and population control.

The study was conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and Colorado State University (CSU) between 2017 and 2020 on two herd management areas (HMAs) in western Utah, the Conger and Frisco HMAs.

“The populations have increased dramatically over the past 10 to 20 years. More recently, it’s just been an exponential increase, so the (BLM) is looking for different ways of managing the horses to control population growth,” Sarah King, a research scientist in the Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory at CSU, said.

The study conducted demographic observations year-round at both HMAs to record survival and foaling rates, using the Frisco HMA as a control group. In December 2017, 27 adult males from the Conger HMA (42 percent of adult males in the population) were gelded and returned to the range

with their social groups.

The study’s findings concluded gelding is a safe tool for wild horses.

“Gelded horses neither suffered a loss of body condition following gelding, nor gained noticeable weight. Instead their body condition fluctuated similarly to other males on the range across seasons and years,” the study said.

Despite hypothesizing geldings would lose interest in mares due to the loss of testosterone, the study found gelded horses retain the full suite of equine behaviors, including reproductive behaviors. Gelded harem stallions stayed and defended their mares, but by the end of the four-year study, almost all of the harems had disbanded.

“It was actually really interesting to find that gelding had minimal effects on male behavior,” King said. “It seemed a really positive thing that although the males were castrated, they were continuing to maintain their associations with mares.”

The biggest difference between geldings and intact males was among

bachelors. The study found that gelded bachelors tended to stay bachelors, which “suggests that social or sexual experience may play a role in the drive to attain or maintain a harem, which could additionally be affected by lower testosterone levels in bachelors.”

Evaluating gelding as a population growth management tool, the study found the herd’s birthrate declined after the first year. However, it bounced back after a few years.

“Statistical modeling of a horse population predicted that more than 90 percent of the male population would need to be sterilized in order to achieve meaningful population growth suppression,” the study noted.

The study also suggested that gelding may be effective in conjunction with other control measures.

CSU and King will use the results to explore female behavior, social networks, group changes and resource selection concerning the movement of wild horse herds. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**



March 9, 2009, Vol. 88, No. 22

Funding offers stimulus to horse industry

The Mustang Heritage Foundation (MHF) is doing what no other horse-related organization in the nation has attempted—give a horse to a trainer for 90 days and guarantee \$700 in payment with the promise to help market the trainer and the horse to the public.

“This is the answer for many of our nation’s talented horsemen who are losing customers or have customers who can no longer pay to have their horses trained,” said MHF Executive Director Patti Colbert. “Through the foundation’s Trainers Incentive Program (TIP), horsemen can receive up to four mustangs, gentle them and place them for adoption in a period of 90 days, and receive \$700 for each horse.”

Colbert added that the \$700 creates a trickle-down economic effect throughout the agriculture market through the continued purchase of grain, hay and horse care products. TIP can also help folks pursue new careers and support employment of those currently involved in farming and ranching, in addition to saving the U.S. government millions of dollars in the cost of feeding mustangs in long- and short-term holding facilities.

Monett, MO, horseman Chad Kelly has reaped the benefits of being involved with the program. Since becoming a TIP trainer in 2008, Kelly has placed more than 40 mustangs for adoption throughout Missouri and the Midwest and has earned more than \$50,000 in TIP incentive funds.

“I got involved with the program

after competing in the first Extreme Mustang Makeover in 2007,” said the horseman, who was also tapped to compete in the Fort Worth Stock Show’s Mustang Magic. “There is a ready market for the mustang as people are interested in their very hardy nature and uniqueness to our nation’s heritage. Most of the horses I have placed for adoption have stayed with me afterwards to continue their training or they are close by where the adopter can come and learn more about the training the horse has received. It’s been a win-win for everyone. These folks get a horse that’s been started pretty well for less than they would pay for some others, and I often gain a new customer.”

In order to become qualified, certain criteria must be met to satisfy Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regulations, which is responsible for the management of more than 30,000 wild horses roaming public lands. Mustangs are periodically gathered and removed from herd management areas and are placed for adoption across the country.

The most vital of criteria, among others, are that TIP trainers must be at least 18 years old, must have a track record of using natural horsemanship training methods, have facilities that meet BLM requirements, as well as no history or convictions for animal abuse.

To obtain a full description of the program and to apply, visit mustangheritagefoundation.org or call program coordinator Kali Sublett at 254/947-5530. — **WLJ**

Western Livestock Journal

2022 COMMERCIAL CATTLE ISSUE



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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

WLJ compiles its market reports, ODJ stories and statistics from USDA and independent marketing organizations.

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 7/7/2022	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	149.87 ▲	145.85	121.06
CME Feeder Index	162.90 ▼	166.44	151.51
Boxed Beef Average	268.07 ▲	264.00	281.97
Average Dressed Steers	235.73 ▲	234.01	199.06
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,343 ▼	1,344	1,347
Weekly Slaughter**	636,000 ▼	666,000	628,000
Weekly Beef Production***	514.5 ▼	539.1	508.3
Hide/Offal Value	13.77 ▼	13.95	12.83
Corn Price	7.47 ▲	7.44	6.38

*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
July 3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
June 27	7,083	262.38	218	302.61	1,269	269.76	2,323	261.36	818	243.64	2,455	236.99
June 20	6,774	260.18	185	301.02	1,260	270.59	2,234	259.42	878	244.18	2,217	239.25
June 13	6,987	264.14	220	300.10	1,279	271.36	2,004	264.21	850	246.83	2,634	239.47

Cutouts					
----- FED BOXED BEEF -----					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOFF	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Jul 7	268.07	242.58	219.53	109.13	277.07
Jul 6	268.05	242.93	220.33	112.38	N/A
Jul 5	264.66	239.87	220.00	113.42	275.63
Jul 4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Jul 1	263.82	240.47	218.06	114.79	276.00

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	7/1	7/4	7/5	7/6	7/7	High*	Low*
Aug.	13460	N/A	13293	13450	13455	14783	10920
Oct.	13998	N/A	13848	13950	13985	14385	12525
Dec.	14578	N/A	14405	14535	14548	14548	13055
Feb.	15073	N/A	14885	15000	15018	15083	14003

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	7/1	7/4	7/5	7/6	7/7	High*	Low*
Aug.	17450	N/A	17270	17330	17248	17603	15328
Sep.	17765	N/A	17610	17708	17605	17765	15425
Oct.	18045	N/A	17898	18038	17933	18045	16373
Nov.	18250	N/A	18110	18258	18168	18665	16958

*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

Selected Auction Week Ending July 7, 2022

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2

DATE MARKET	STEERS / HEIFERS							SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up			
No report available Blackfoot, ID										
No report available Burley, ID										
No report available Emmett, ID										
June 25 Eugene, OR										
June 27 Madras, OR										
June 29 Vale, OR	186			158-175 139-149	141-153			88-101.50 99-116		
No report available Davenport, WA										
June 30 Toppenish, WA	1,560		180*	183-189.75* 182*	177.50-184* 155-171.50*			85-107.75 107-130	1,825	
No report available Orland, CA										
June 22 Escalon, CA	N/A							83-95 90-113		
No report available Famoso, CA										
No report available Galt, CA										
July 6 Turlock, CA	885							87-110.50 90-140		
June 28 Salina, UT	421	150-160	125-162.50	144182.50 120-158	137.50-183 115-156	155-178.50 121-150	135-170 115-142.50	114-156.50 107.50-139.50	76.25-97.75 101.25-117.75	1,005-1,105
July 5 Iowa	1,833									
No report available Miles City, MT										
July 1 Bassett, NE	7,340		241-243 206	228-240 198-221.50	210.50-240.25 191.25-210.50	209-230 176.50-198	183.25-217.50 166-186.50	166-184.25 154.25-168.75		
No report available Ericson, NE										
No report available Imperial, NE										
No report available Kearney, NE										
No report available Lexington, NE										
No report available Ogallala, NE										
No report available Valentine, NE										
No report available Herreid, SD										
No report available Torrington, WY										
No report available Willcox, AZ										
July 5 Colorado	1,845	535-550	227.50 202.50					51-103 90-139	1,325-1,800	
June 29 La Junta, CO	720	211-280 185-230		176-202 169-179	171-175 165-173	160-176 158-167	156-159 141-158	77-96.50 101-120	1,425-1,575 1,125-1,210	
No report available Loma, CO										
July 6 Dodge City, KS	1,456		195-218 151-187	180-220 157-176	169-190 159-167	169 154-158.50	161.50-168 155.50	161-168.75 122-153.50	80-97 87-112	935-1,500
July 7 Pratt, KS	1,295				167-169	159	158	151-178.50 135.50-159	77-96.50 86.50-120	
No report available Salina, KS										
No report available Clovis, NM										
July 6 El Reno, OK	3,063		232.50	220	192-193 180-187	171-186.50	164-176	169.50-180 152.50-163	161-175 131-156	
No report available McAlester, OK										
No report available Oklahoma City, OK										
No report available Cuero, TX										
July 1 Dalhart, TX	1,896	217.50-260 217.50-239	243 210	211-232.50 185-194.50	170-214 177-182	174-178 158-169.50	165.50-174 156-166	153-155.50 129-152	69-92 103-106	
June 30 San Angelo, TX	1,084		176		183 157	170-175			75-87 76-111	900-1,375 975
June 30 Tulia, TX	744	225-230 202-204	229-235 200	194-221 170	190-196 154-170	161-169 146-154	160-165.50 130-135	142.50-147	80-90 75	
July 1 Alabama	12,283		177-184.25 133-172	155-196 131-162	141-176 120-156	133-170 121-148	130-149 112-135	125-132 103.50-107	65-102 88-124	750-1,550 525-1,425
No report available Lexington, KY										
No report available Joplin, MO										
July 5 Tennessee	6,062	160-200* 149-170*	162-215* 140-175*	158-194* 137.50-168*	150-184* 115-162*	147-176* 120-152*	131-166* 115-136*	111-159* 110-128*	59-119 85-143	1,050-1,775 925-1,260
July 5 Virginia	1,861		174 140-160.75	135-185 140.50-154.25	124-185.50 133-150	143-178.50 120-142.75	148-160.50 120-139	140 93-134		
CANADA										
No report available Lethbridge, Alberta										

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	4,988	1,413	149.87
Live FOB Heifer	457	1,266	149.39
Dressed Del Steer	434	911	235.73
Dressed Del Heifer	42	839	237.00
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	20,218	1,445	145.98
Live FOB Heifer	10,984	1,291	143.67
Dressed Del Steer	7,885	921	234.01
Dressed Del Heifer	2,119	813	233.98
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	16,036	1,433	121.06
Live FOB Heifer	9,754	1,264	120.16
Dressed Del Steer	10,683	935	199.06
Dressed Del Heifer	1,689	822	198.65

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JULY 3		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	31,292	3,711
Formula	273,253	150
Negotiated Cash	77,430	218
Negotiated Grid	43,213	264
Packer Owned	9,432	0
Total	434,620	4,343

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	N/A
Jul. '22	136,063	Neg. Sales 21+ days	N/A
Aug. '22	106,200	Formula sales	N/A
Sep. '22	154,939	Forward contract sales	N/A
Oct. '22	130,980	Domestic sales	N/A
Nov. '22	132,877	NAFTA Exports	N/A

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES			
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)		Price	Weekly Change
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		135.12	+0.01
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		135.24	N/A
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		147.28	-0.60
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		91.79	+1.02

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, June 24, 2022			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	181.21	N/A	173.47
601-700 lbs	180.21	N/A	171.39
701-800 lbs	168.50	162.23	160.69
801-900 lbs	155.23	151.76	156.61
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	158.28	N/A	158.28
501-600 lbs	153.52	N/A	148.48
601-700 lbs	149.75	141.55	145.61
701-800 lbs	144.12	N/A	145.31

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
	7/2/22	6/25/22		
Feeders	12,284	12,448	439,461	617,556

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
Friday, July 1, 2022			
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 8,000	Week Ago Act: 10,258	Year Ago Act: 12,320	
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00 higher. Heifers 1.00 higher. Trade active, demand good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.			
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 189.00-199.00, few 200.00; 400-500 lbs 174.00-184.00, few 185.00; 500-600 lbs 159.00-169.00, few 170.00; 600-700 lbs 145.00-155.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 174.00-184.00; 400-500 lbs 159.00-169.00; 500-600 lbs 144.00-154.00.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 161.00-172.00, few 173.00; 400-500 lbs 151.00-162.00, few 163.00; 500-600 lbs 141.00-152.00, few 153.00; 600-700 lbs 131.00-142.00, few 143.00.			
(All sales fob port of entry.)			

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Cattle and beef markets in 2022: The second half

The first half of 2022 is in the books. The general direction of cattle and beef market forecasts for this year has not changed. Still, annual forecasts have been modified by the way the first half of the year played out, with implications for a significantly different second half of the year. If the forecasts are to be realized, several factors will be significantly different in the third and fourth quarters compared to the first half of the year.

Beef production is projected to decrease year over year in 2022 from last year's record level. The magnitude of that decrease has been trimmed

back compared to earlier forecasts, with current estimates suggesting beef production will decrease roughly 1 percent in 2022. Beef production in the first half of 2022 is up about 1 percent, meaning that production in the second half of the year is projected to drop more sharply and is forecast to decrease nearly 4 percent year over year for the remainder of the year.

Lower beef production going forward implies that cattle slaughter will decrease as well. Cattle slaughter is currently forecast to decrease by 1 percent for the year. In the first half of the year, total cattle slaughter was up by

1.4 percent year over year. The increase is due to more female slaughter, with total cow plus heifer slaughter up 4.5 percent in the year's first half. Thus far, increased female slaughter more than offsets the 1.6 percent year-over-year decrease in steer plus bull slaughter. Total cow slaughter is up 6.1 percent so far this year, but decreased dairy cow slaughter, down 3.1 percent year over year, partially offsets the 14.6 percent year-over-year increase in beef cow slaughter. For the remainder of the year, total beef cow slaughter is likely to remain higher year over year by double digits, and

total cow slaughter is likely to increase by 5-6 percent year over year. This means reduced cattle slaughter will be realized by less steer and heifer slaughter.

Reduced fed slaughter for the remainder of the year implies reduced feedlot marketing rates. Feedlots, as of June 1, had record inventories of cattle on feed, which seems to be at odds with the idea of reduced marketings in the coming months. However, feedlots have been placing larger

numbers of lightweight cattle, leading to more days on feed and slower turnover rates—in other words, slower marketing rates. Feedlots will work through current inventories in the second half of the year. May placements were down by the largest year-over-year monthly decrease since last September. Smaller placements in the coming months will lead to lower feedlot inventories by the end of the year unless drought forces even

larger numbers of cattle into feedlots.

Exactly how continuing drought, reduced forage production and high feed prices will impact cattle and beef markets in the coming months remains uncertain. Nevertheless, the second half of 2022 is shaping up to look significantly different than the first half of the year. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Regionwide averages for feeder cattle higher

MARKETS (from page 1)

purchases: \$228.01.

Due to the holiday shortened week, slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 380,000 head, 7,000 above the same period last year. Slaughter for the week is projected to be 636,000 head, with dressed weights averaging 810 lbs. Actual slaughter for the week ending June 25 was 664,553 head. Steer weights averaged 883 lbs.

"This past week's slaughter at 636,000 head was 30,000 under the previous week with most plants shutting down for the 4th and giving plant workers Saturday through Monday off," the Ag Center wrote in the Cattle Report. "Retailers are purchasing for mid summer needs and will be cautious with inventory levels—not wanting to have excess inventories if consumer demand fades. Margin losses will mostly come from processors and retailers. Inventories remain low for both processors and retailers leaving open the likelihood of volatile moves in various beef products."

Boxed beef prices were higher, with the Choice cutout up \$4.07 to \$268.07 and the Select cutout up \$2.01 to \$242.58.

USDA's Weekly Export report for the June 17-23 period showed net sales of 17,000 metric tons (mt) for 2022, up 52 percent from the previous week and 6 percent from the prior four-week average. The increases were primarily in South

Korea (5,100 mt), China (4,500 mt), Japan (2,000 mt), Taiwan (1,700 mt) and Indonesia (1,000 mt). Exports were 19,800 mt, up 4 percent from the previous week and 5 percent from the prior four-week average.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle trended lower as the corn market regained some of the footing it lost early in the week. The August contract was down \$1.13 to \$172.47, and the September contract lost 17 cents to close at \$176.05. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was down \$3.54 to \$162.90.

"With the cash cattle market still not having developed a test on this week's market, the feeder cattle complex has only its own technical and fundamental support to rely on," Stewart wrote. "Feeder cattle demand throughout the countryside has been strong as buyers see the premiums in the deferred live cattle market and hope to capitalize on those higher prices."

Corn closed mixed, with the July contract up 4 cents to \$7.47 and the September contract down 19 cents to \$6.09.

Most auction markets were closed during the Fourth of July week. However, the Cattle Range reported in their Weekly Market Summary that regionwide averages for feeder cattle averaging 750 lbs. were as follows:

• North Central region

(North and South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and Wyoming): \$181.84, up from \$177.09 last week.

• South Central region (Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas): \$169.04, up from \$167.48 last week.

• Western region (Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Washington): \$169.62, up from \$166.17 last week.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 1,456 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, steers and heifers 400-900 lbs. sold \$4-7 higher on light receipts. Benchmark steers averaging 715 lbs. sold between \$163-168, averaging \$165.62.

Missouri: Ozarks Regional Stockyards in West Plains sold 3,565 head Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, steer and heifer calves traded steady to \$3 higher, while well-tested yearling steers traded \$3-6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold between \$162-169.50, averaging \$165.01.

Oklahoma: OKC West in El Reno sold 3,063 head on Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers and heifers were lightly tested, but the bulk of trades sold \$4-6 higher. Steer and heifer calves were too lightly tested for a trend. Benchmark steers averaging 783 lbs. sold between \$169.50-180 and averaged \$172.14. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**



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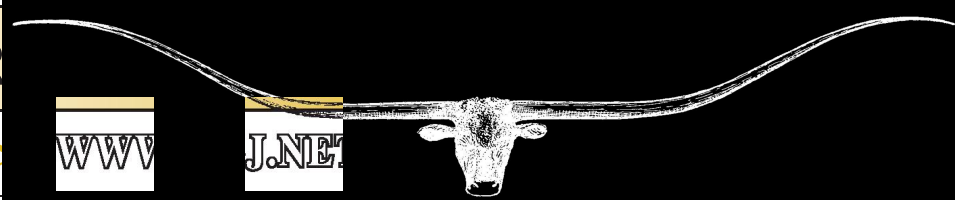
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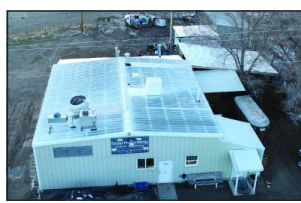
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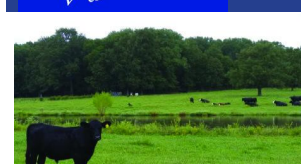
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 - Oct. 8 – EZ Ranch, Female Sale, Porterville, CA
 - Oct. 8 – Silveira Bros., Female Sale, Firebaugh, CA
 - Oct. 8 – Trinity Farms, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA
 - Oct. 9 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Modesto, CA
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 - Oct. 11 – 9 Peaks Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Rock, OR
 - Oct. 11 – Coleman Angus, Female Sale, Charlo, MT
 - Oct. 12 – Montana Ranch, Female Sale, Big Fork, MT
 - Oct. 14 – Wooden Shoe Farms, Female Sale, Blackfoot, ID
 - Oct. 15 – Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
 - Oct. 20 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Baker City, OR
 - Oct. 22 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
 - Oct. 22 – NILE, Female Sale, Billings, MT
 - Oct. 24 – Montana Angus, Female Sale, Billings, MT
 - Nov. 3 – Stokrose Land and Livestock, Bull Sale, Moses Lake, WA
 - Nov. 12 – HD Dunn and Son, Bull Sale, Teton, ID
 - Nov. 12 – Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
 - Nov. 12 – Rocky Mtn. Angus, Bull Sale, Tremonton, UT
 - Nov. 14 – GDAR, Female Sale, Sidney, MT
 - Nov. 15 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
- ALL BREED**
- Sep. 11 – Visalia Livestock Market, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
 - Oct. 1 – CA Breeders, Bull Sale, Turlock, CA
 - Oct. 2 – CAL Poly PT, Bull Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA
 - Oct. 15 – Western Stockmen's Market, Bull Sale, Famoso, CA
 - Oct. 15 – Western Stockmen's Market, Female & Bull Sale, McFarland, CA
 - Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
- ANGUS**
- Aug. 27 – Riverbend Ranch, Female Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
 - Sep. 1 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, La Grange, CA
 - Sep. 2 – Byrd Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Los Molinos, CA
 - Sep. 3 – EZ Ranch, Bull Sale, Farmington, CA
 - Sep. 4 – Five Star Land and Livestock, Bull Sale, Wilton, CA
 - Sep. 6 – Performance Plus, Bull Sale, O'Neals, CA
 - Sep. 7 – Silveira Bros., Female Sale, Firebaugh, CA
 - Sep. 8 – Donati Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
 - Sep. 9 – Tehama Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gerber, CA
 - Sep. 10 – Arrellano Bravo, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
 - Sep. 14 – Bulls Eye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
 - Sep. 15 – Rancho Casino/Dal Porto, Bull Sale, Denair, CA
 - Sep. 20 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
 - Sep. 20-22 – Montana Angus Tour, Sidney, MT
 - Sep. 22 – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Lone, CA
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- Oct. 15 – Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
 - Nov. 1 – Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
- GELBVIEH**
- Sep. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA

- RED ANGUS**
- Sep. 7 – Silveira Bros., Female Sale, Firebaugh, CA
 - Sep. 11 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
 - Sep. 18 – Steagall Red Angus, Bull Sale, Colusa, CA
 - Sep. 24 – McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA
 - Oct. 21 – NILE, Female Sale, Billings, MT
 - Oct. 29 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT
 - Nov. 3 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
- SIMANGUS**
- Sep. 14 – Bulls Eye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
 - Sep. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
 - Sep. 22 – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Lone, CA
 - Oct. 7 – Teixeira Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Pismo Beach, CA
 - Oct. 8 – Trinity Farms, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA
- COMMERCIAL**
- Jul. 11-13 – Western Video Market, Silver Legacy, Reno, NV
 - Jul. 11-15 – Superior Livestock Auction, Week in the Rockies Video Sale, Cheyenne, WY
 - Jul. 18-20 – Northern Video Sale, Summertime Classic Video Auction, Billings, MT
 - Jul. 22 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Sonoma-Marin Cattlemen's Special Feeder Sale, Galt, CA
 - Aug. 9-10 – Cattle Country Video, Oregon Trail Classic, Gering, NE
 - Aug. 22 – Northern Video Sale, Early Fall Preview Video Auction, Billings, MT
 - Aug. 22-26 – Superior Livestock Auction, Big Horn Classic Video Sale, Sheridan, WY
 - Sep. 7-8 – Superior Livestock Auction, Labor Day Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
 - Sep. 15 – Cattle Country Video, Cheyenne Roundup, Cheyenne, WY
 - Sep. 19 – Northern Video Sale, Fall Premier Video Auction, Billings, MT
 - Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Female Sale, Galt, CA
 - Nov. 12 – Ranchers Choice, Female Sale, Juntura, OR
- HORSE**
- Aug. 28 – RQHBA, Quarter Horse Production Sale, Belle Fourche, SD
 - Sep. 16-17 – Van Norman & Friends, Production Sale, Elko, NV
 - Sep. 17 – Reno Snaffle Bit, Futurity Sale, Reno, NV
 - Oct. 14 – Western Stockman's Market, Showcase Horse Sale, McFarland, CA

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MONDAY, AUG. 1

Superior Sunrise 7:30 a.m. PST
Video Auction 8:00 a.m. PST
Region 2 calves sell

TUESDAY, AUG. 2

Superior Sunrise 7:30 a.m. PST
Video Auction 8:00 a.m. PST
Yearlings sell

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 3

Superior Sunrise 7:30 a.m. PST
Video Auction 8:00 a.m. PST
Region 1 & Nevada calves sell
24th Annual Superior 5:00 p.m. PST
Cowboy Golf Tournament

THURSDAY, AUG. 4

Superior Sunrise 7:30 a.m. PST
Video Auction 8:00 a.m. PST
Region 1 calves sell
Steak Cookout 6:00 p.m. PST
Featuring a performance by
Tracy Byrd,
Waylon Thibodeaux
and Kevin Davis



TRACY BYRD

FRIDAY, AUG. 5

Superior Sunrise 7:30 a.m. PST
Video Auction 8:00 a.m. PST
Regions 3/4/5/6 calves sell
Customer Social 8:00 p.m. PST
Hosted at the Martin Hotel, featuring
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